

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
745 SECOND STREET, LA SALLE, IL.
7:00 P.M., Tuesday, July 1, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Grove at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present- Mayor Grove, Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

Excused Absence-None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds that the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 are accepted and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Moved by Alderman Schneider and seconded by Alderman Demes to allow Scout Master Dan Mathews to address the council.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Mathews introduced himself as the new Scout Master for Troop 20 which is sponsored by the VFW in La Salle. He has taken over the position from Jerry Sampo who had been Scout Master for forty-two years. The group is still active and has four scouts at this time. Mr. Mathews stated that the troop is always looking for new members. The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month. The troop will continue to work with the city on various service projects. Mr. Mathews anticipates having an Eagle Scout in both the fall and the spring. Mayor Grove recognized the troop for past scouting projects within the city and wished Dan well in his new role.

There were no other public comments.

PETITIONS

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Demes to allow Cathy Tomlinson to address the council regarding 617 Sixth Street and related matters.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Tomlinson brought forth concerns regarding various properties in her neighborhood. Regarding, 631 6th Street, which is right next door to her, she informed the council that the home is currently for sale, but vacant at this time. She asked if it would be possible to have the grass cut better. In addition, she reported that 628 Sixth Street is also vacant. 616 Sixth Street had work begun on it a couple years ago including a new roof and windows. The owner approached the city about turning it into an apartment building and the request was denied. Since that time, the work has stopped. 617 Sixth Street is a large apartment building and the landlord will not allow her to go on the property to cut weeds or remove anything from the yard.

Ms. Tomlinson is requesting the support of the council in initiating court proceedings regarding 617 Sixth Street. Ms. Tomlinson added that negotiations with the landlord are going nowhere and Ms. Tomlinson believes this has gone on long enough and therefore is asking for the city's support. Alderman Schneider asked if the landlord is from the area which Ms. Tomlinson indicated she is not. Attorney McPhedran added that this property includes addresses from 615 to 625. Continuing, she also indicated that the bank has no interest in the property.

Chris Covert explained that to his understanding the bank has foreclosed on the property, but the property owner is responsible for the outstanding debt. The bank returned the property to her. A minor repair was made to the front porch, but no work has been done to address plumbing, wiring and lack of heat. The bank does not want the property and the owner is not willing to make the necessary repairs

Alderman Duncan stated that he had some background with this property prior to becoming an alderman and explained that the bank chose not to initiate foreclosure proceedings because they did not have interest in acquiring this property. Instead, the bank sought a judgment and has garnished the wages of the owner's husband for the outstanding debt.

Attorney McPhedran confirmed that the bank could have pursued foreclosure, but because they ultimately did not want the property, they sought the judgment instead. The bank involved has indicated to Attorney McPhedran's office that when and if the city initiates formal litigation, the bank has no interest in the property. Attorney McPhedran indicated it would be reasonable, based on all of the action already taken by both the Building Inspector and his office that the city could file a complaint with the court so we can begin to move forward.

It was indicated that city crews have cut the grass on many occasions at 617 Sixth Street and fines have been accrued; however no liens have been filed.

When asked if the building could be rehabilitated, Building Inspector Chris Covert stated in his opinion it would be difficult. Structurally the building is sound, but extensive repairs would need to be made.

Ms. Tomlinson made it clear that she understands this could be a lengthy process, but she feels something has to get done. Brief discussion followed regarding the process of condemning a building and demolition.

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Bacidore to proceed with the process to take ownership and proceed toward demolition at 617 Sixth Street.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Motion Carried 8-0

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Duncan to grant the request of Ameren Illinois to break ground at 1819 Creve Coeur Street to install gas service.

Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

There were no reports from City Officers.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

PROCLAMATION

A proclamation was read aloud declaring June 28, 2014 as Lily Rosploch day in the City of La Salle on the occasion of her fifth birthday.

Moved by Alderman Schneider and seconded by Alderman Herndon to declare June 28, 2014 as Lily Rosploch Day in the City of La Salle.

Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

**PROCLAMATION:
June 28, 2014 as Lily
Rosploch Day**

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Duncan to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission regarding Janie's House final plat of subdivision. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Motion carried 8-0

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Ptak to grant the request of Roger Yanish to place a handicapped parking sign in front of 1114 First Street.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Motion carried 8-0

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Grove asked for an update regarding the situation with the "No Parking Here to Corner" sign recently installed on the east side of the 1400 Block of La Harpe Street from the first driveway south of the stop sign at the intersection of 15th and La Harpe Streets north to the intersection of 15th and La Harpe Streets.

Alderman Bacidore informed the council that new procedures will be established for signage requests referred to the Streets, Alleys and Traffic committee. The new procedure will include notification by letter to each neighbor in the affected area as to the proposed request. This procedure will allow residents to air any objection prior to a recommendation being made to the council.

Irene Parola owner of the property at 1442 La Harpe Street was present and addressed the council regarding her objection to the above referenced sign. The new sign affects her ability to park in front of her home and has created an inconvenience. She expressed displeasure about receiving a note from the police department on her door informing her that she can no longer park in front of her home. Ms. Parola noted that the issue was on the agenda in May and then a sign was placed fifteen days later. She questioned when the review of this issue took place. The Mayor explained the council addresses these issues quickly. Ms. Parola stated that it was her understanding that the neighbors across the street raised the complaint because they were having trouble backing out of their driveway. Discussion followed.

Alderman Herndon explained that the original complaint had come to Alderman Bacidore eight or nine months ago and no action was taken at that time. When a second complaint was received, the council looked into taking action. Alderman Herndon then explained that state

statute dictates that cars must park 30 feet from any stop sign, therefore the sign approved by the city simply clarifies the state law. Herndon added by city ordinance, if a street is less than 30 feet wide; parking directly behind a driveway is also not permitted. Alderman Herndon asked Ms. Parola what she suggests as a solution. Discussion followed.

Alderman Herndon read aloud the complaint letter from Teresa and Carl Felts. The letter requested the council review the parking situation in the vicinity of their home, as they found backing out of their driveway due to cars being parked directly behind it difficult. In addition, cars parked very close to the edge of the driveway also created difficulty. They indicated the parking situation also causes difficulty for newspaper delivery and garbage pick-up. Ms. Parola stated that she wished they had simply walked across the street and expressed their concerns.

Alderman Demes explained that all of the Aldermen went and looked at the area because they had questions about the request. Alderman Demes did feel the height of the Felts' driveway may have made backing out difficult and therefore he voted in favor of the sign. Demes explained that one misconception we all have is that parking place in front of your home is yours. It is a public right of way, and legally you can park anywhere on a street. Mayor Grove explained to Ms. Parola that as a result of this situation the city's procedures have been reviewed; however the outcome may not change.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to move forward with the 2014 Sidewalk Program. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Motion carried 8-0

Building Inspector Chris Covert asked the council to consider developing an ordinance regulating qualifications to do electrical work in the city. It is his goal to set a minimum level of competency for contractors doing electrical work for hire. It may be possible to establish reciprocity with other communities in regard to honoring exams and licensing. The aldermen had various questions, but the informal indication leaned toward a need for criteria to be established. A proposal will be developed for the council's review prior to being acted upon.

Moved by Alderman Duncan and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to authorize Attorney McPhedran to develop language for the aldermen to review regarding an ordinance outlining requirements for an electrical contractor license.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Motion Carried 8-0

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to move forward with the 2014 Street Program. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Motion carried 8-0

Alderman Demes explained that most of the complaints in his ward revolve around issues with weeds and uncut grass. Alderman Demes proposed we charge \$125 per hour for mowing done by city crews on property not taken care of by the owners. Alderman Demes feels we need to recoup some of this money by filing liens against the properties and by making the fines stiffer.

Alderman Demes made a motion to institute a higher fine regarding weeds and uncut grass, but there was no second.

Discussion followed. Mayor Grove asked Alderman Demes and the City Clerk to investigate what other communities charge to cut grass on problem properties. Building Inspector Covert suggested that at the end of each year the books are cleared and liens are filed on properties where outstanding fines are owed. These fines could also be applied to the water bill where water can be shut off if the fine is not paid. Alderman Reynolds suggested we table this issue for now and research the issue a bit more.

Alderman Schneider thanked Jeff Bumgarner, Don Baldin, John Arbisi and Dan Weber for adding new sand to the sand volleyball courts at Hegeler Park.

Alderman Schneider reminded residents that if they notice overhanging tree branches that impair the ability to see a stop sign at an intersection to please notify the City.

Alderman Schneider asked for clarification and parameters regarding branch pick-up. Discussion followed. It was clarified that branches must be no longer than six foot in length or 4 inches in diameter in order for removal by city crews. Branches need to be by the curb, as city crews will not go onto private property. Branch pick-up is \$10.00 for the first 15 minutes, and .75 cents for each minute after that. It was decided that for this most recent storm, residents will not be charged for branch pick-up for a one week period of time. After that, charges will apply.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Schneider to approve and place on file **Ordinance No. 2493** approving the waiver of preliminary plat and the approval of one lot subdivision of Kemp Smith and Cathy Smith, commonly presently known as premises to the South of Illinois Valley Animal Rescue building at 320 Industrial Drive. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Motion Carried 8-0

Ordinance 2493: an ordinance approving the waiver of preliminary plat and the approval of one lot subdivision of Kemp Smith and Cathy Smith, commonly presently known as premises to the South of Illinois Valley Animal Rescue building at 320 Industrial Drive.

Alderman Demes stated that he was contacted by a resident asking why they had to pay a sewer fee when filling a swimming pool. The City of La Salle's rates are based off water and sewer. Eventually the water in a pool ends up in the sewer; therefore the bill is not adjusted.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve and place on file **Ordinance No. 2494** amending ordinances regulating rules, conditions and water rates applying to water and services in the City of La Salle, Illinois and related matters.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Motion Carried 8-0

Ordinance 2494: an ordinance amending ordinances regulating rules, conditions and water rates applying to water and services in the City of La Salle, Illinois and related matters.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri that bills submitted totaling: \$697,103.63 (Total Payroll \$173,340.14 Bills to be Paid \$164,385.16, Total Bills Paid \$359,378.33) be accepted, paid and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon Schneider NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

COMMENTS

Kara Garten gave an update on the Farmer's Market.

There were no other comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Herndon to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED 8:26 p.m.

Carrie Brown, City Clerk